

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 1, 2007

Through enactment of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, also known as AB 939, the State mandated local governments to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfill disposal by the year 2000 and thereafter. Failure to meet this mandate could subject local governments to penalties of \$10,000 per day.

In response to this mandate, the County aggressively implemented a variety of innovative recycling programs, many of which received State and national awards for excellence and innovation and are seen as models for other jurisdictions to emulate. Despite implementing all the programs in our State-approved plan as well as additional programs, we were unable to document achievement of the 50 percent diversion mandate for the year 2000. Because of the County's complex geographical makeup, our free-market waste collection system, and the lack of complete and reliable data from waste haulers, the State's uniform methodology was unable to render an accurate recycling rate for the unincorporated County areas. These systemic problems resulted in a steadily declining recycling rate since 1999, as calculated using the State default formula, despite continually expanding our recycling programs.

In 2002, the California Integrated Waste Management Board granted a time extension for the County to implement additional recycling programs and document

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

(MORE)

achievement of the 50 percent mandate. Since then, the Department of Public Works has worked diligently to comply with this requirement. For example, they formed a new garbage disposal district in the Lennox community, implemented residential automated waste collection services in the seven garbage disposal districts and expanded the services to all businesses, implemented an ordinance requiring debris generated from demolition projects to be recycled, and began rolling out a franchise waste collection system for areas outside the garbage disposal districts. Public Works worked closely with the Waste Board and went through extraordinary efforts to document the County's recycling activities and its good-faith efforts to comply with AB 939. The Waste Board took note of these extraordinary efforts, especially recognizing the magnitude, complexity, and importance of the franchise waste collection system being developed.

Collectively, these programs have increased recycling and significantly improved the quality of the waste collection services provided to our residents. Public Works is to be commended for doing an outstanding job in working with the affected communities and the solid waste industry as they implemented the new programs.

As a result of these efforts, the Waste Board recently approved the County's 2004 Annual Report, which documented a 53 percent diversion rate for the unincorporated County areas. This is a significant achievement for the County because it sets a constructive precedent for future years.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board approve the attached resolution commending the Department of Public Works and its staff for their excellent service, dedication, and leadership in protecting our environment and improving the quality of life of the residents of the County of Los Angeles.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS'  
STAFF FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND DEDICATION  
TO THE RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, the State of California enacted the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) mandating local governments to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfill disposal by the year 2000 and thereafter, and failure to meet this mandate could subject the County to penalties of \$10,000 per day; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works, as the lead County agency advising the Board of Supervisors on waste management issues, has implemented numerous waste reduction and recycling programs that have been nationally recognized for their excellence and innovation and are seen as models for other jurisdictions to emulate; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works' staff worked diligently with the State to demonstrate the County's good-faith efforts to comply with Assembly Bill 939; and

WHEREAS, in March 2007, the California Integrated Waste Management Board approved the County's 2004 Annual Report, which documented a 53 percent diversion rate for the unincorporated County areas, and represents a significant milestone for the County and sets a constructive precedent for future years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby commends the Department of Public Works and its staff for their excellent service, dedication, and leadership in protecting our environment and improving the quality of life of the citizens of the County of Los Angeles.